UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

Docket No. MUR-8410

Total Pages in this Submission

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

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	3.	×	☑ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)							
		a.	☐ Formal b. ☑ Informal Number of Sheets five (5)							
	4.	×	Oath or Declaration							
		a.	☐ Newly executed (original or copy) ☑ Unexecuted							
		b.	☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)							
		C.	☑ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney							
		d.	DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).							
	5.		Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.							
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Application Elements (Continued)

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

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15. Benefit of priority of U.K. Patent No. 9703608.1 filed 21 February 1997 is claimed									
under 35 USC 119 and 120.									
16. 🛛 Small Entit	Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: one (1)								
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 A check in the amount of \$380.00 to cover the filling fee is enclosed. ☑ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. ☐ Charge the amount of as filling fee. ☑ Credit any overpayment. ☑ Charge any additional filling fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b). □ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b). □ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b). 									
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23-AUG-89 16:52 FROM: Applicant or Fancier has Abstract Rich William Burner, and Aliquis Horsam Charles for Passer No. (PC/TGP08/9/554)
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"CASING CENTRALISER"

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The invention relates to a casing centraliser. This application is a Continuation-In-Part of PCT/GB98/00554 to which filing details have not yet been assigned by the USPTC.

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Background to the invention.

9 When a well has been drilled for the eventual production of hydrocarbons, one of the procedures 10 commonly employed in readying the well for production 11 comprises installing hollow tubular casing in the well 12 to line the borehole. The space between the exterior 13 of the casing and the sides of the borehole are filled 14 with cement, which acts as a sealant and provides 15 16 mechanical support for the casing. As it is desirable 17 that the casing be centralized in the well bore when cemented, proposals have been made for providing the 18 casing (prior to cementing) with externally mounted centralisers to hold the casing away from the well bore 20 and towards the centre of the bore. 21

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Summary of the invention.

longitudinally therethrough, the annular body being I formed from at least one material selected from the 2 group consisting of plastic material, elastomeric 3 material and rubber material, the substantially 4 cylindrical bore being a clearance fit around the 5 tubular casing to be centralised by the centraliser. 6 7 In a preferred embodiment the invention provides a 8 casing centraliser assembly comprising tubular casing 9 and a centraliser as defined above. 10 11 Typically, the plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber 12 material may comprise polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), 13 polyetheretherketone, carbon reinforced 14 polyetheretherketone, polyphthalamide, polyvinylidene 15 fluoride, polyphenylylene sulphide, polyetherimide, 16 polyethylene, polysulphone, polyethersulphone, 17 polybutyleneterephthalate, polyetherketoneketone, 18 polyamides, rubber & rubber compounds, phenolic resins 19 or compounds, thermosetting plastics, thermoplastic 20 elastomers, thermoplastic compounds or thermoplastic 21 polyester resins. 22 23 In one example of the invention, the plastic, 24 elastomeric or rubber material may contain a filler 25 material, such as glass, carbon, PTFE, silicon, 26 molybdenum disulphide, graphite, oil or wax, or any 27 combination of these materials. 28 29 The annular body may be manufactured from and consist 30 of the plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber material. 31 However, the annular body may comprise a combination of 32 the plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber material and 33 another material such as a metal. For example, the 34 annular body may comprise a metal skeleton or other 35

structure coated, or partially coated, with the 1 plastic, elastomeric or rubber material. In addition, 2 or as an alternative, the annular body may comprise a 4 combination of different plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber materials. 5 7 The annular body may be formed in one or more sections which may be assembled around the tubular to be 8 centralised by the centraliser. In one embodiment the 9 annular body is divided into 2 sections along its axis IO so that each section forms a "half shell" arrangement. 11 The concave surface of one section can be fitted direct 12 against one side of the outer surface of the tubular 13 and connected to another section similarly positioned 14 against the opposite side of the tubular. The 2 15 sections can then be connected around the tubular to 16 17 make up the centraliser so that it does not need to be offered up to the end of the tubular. This can be very 18 useful in coil tubing applications. 19 20 The division between the sections need not be axial. 21 23

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In some embodiments the sections can be hingedly attached to one another. In others the 2 sections can be separate. There can be more than 2 sections provided. It is sufficient that the sections are adapted to allow the centraliser to be placed around the tubular without needing to be threaded over an end of the tubular.

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31 The sections are preferably held together by fixings and/or hinges. Preferred fixings include bolts but 32 catches and locks can also be used. 33

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35 Preferably the centraliser further comprises a

peripheral array of a plurality of longitudinally 1 extending blades circumferentially distributed around 2 said body to define a flow path between each 3 circumferentially adjacent pair of said blades, each 4 said flow path providing a fluid flow path between 5 longitudinally opposite ends of said centraliser, each 6 said blade having a radially outer edge providing a 7 well bore-contacting surface. 8 9 Said centraliser is preferably free of any means 10 tightly gripping a casing when said centraliser is 11 installed thereon, whereby said centraliser and said 12 casing are mutually rotatable. 13 14 Said blades are preferably mutually substantially 15 equidistantly distributed around said body. Said blades 16 preferably each extend circumferentially at least 17 part-way around said body between longitudinally 18 opposite ends thereof to provide a circumferential 19 distribution of each said well bore-contacting surface. 20 Each said blade preferably has a radially inner root 21 integral with said body, each said radially inner root 22 preferably being circumferentially wider than the 23 respective radially outer edge. Said blades are 24 preferably circumferentially wider at one end of the 25 centraliser than at the other end, said one end 26 preferably the lower end of the centraliser in use 27 thereof. Said centraliser preferably has five of said 28 blades. 29 30 Longitudinally opposite ends of said blades and/or of 31 said body may be chamfered or tapered whereby to 32 facilitate passage of said centraliser down a well 33 bore. 34

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1	Brief describtion of the drawings.
2	Examples of a casing centraliser in accordance with the
3	invention will now be described with reference to the
4	accompanying drawings, in which:-
5	
6	Fig. 1 is a perspective view from above and to one
7	side of a first example of a casing centraliser;
8	Fig. 2 is a plan view from above of the first
9	example;
10	Fig. 3 is an underneath view of the first example;
11	Figs. 4 and 5 are respectively radial (plan) and
12	circumferential (side) views of a blade forming
13	part of the first example;
14	Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a casing
15	centraliser mounted on casing in a borehole;
16	Fig 7a shows a side view of a second centraliser
17	on a tubular, Fig 7b shows the same centraliser in
18	plan view, and Fig 7c shows the same centraliser
19	in exploded plan view.
20	
21	Description of preferred embodiments.
22	Referring first to Figs. 1 to 3, a casing centraliser
23	10 is a unitary annulus comprising a generally
24	cylindrical body 12, and an array of five
25	equiangularly-spaced blades 14 integrally formed with
26	the body 12. A cylindrical bore 16 extends
27	longitudinally and coaxially through the body 12, the
28	bore 16 having a substantially uniform diameter
29	dimensioned to be a clearance fit around the well bore
30	casing (not shown in Figs. 1 to 8). Each of the blades
31	14 (see also Figs. 4 and 5) not only extends between
32	longitudinally opposite ends of the body 12, but also
33	extends circumferentially part-way around the periphery
34	of the centraliser 10. The skewing of the blade 14
35	ensures that their respective radially outer edges 18

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collectively provide a circumferentially substantially uniform well bore-contacting surface for the centraliser 10, as most particularly shown in Figs. 2 3 and 3. 4 5 Each of the blades 14 has a respective radially inner 6 root 20 integral with the body 12. In each of the 7 blades 14, the root 20 has a greater circumferential 8 width than the outer edge 13, ie the cross-section of 9 each blade 14 tapers towards the well bore-contacting 10 periphery of the centraliser 10. The individual and 11 collective shapes of the blades 14, and of the 12 longitudinal fluid flow passages defined between 13 adjacent pairs of the blades 14, gives the centraliser 14 10 improved flow characteristics and minimises the 15 build-up of trapped solids during use of the 16 centraliser 10. 17 18 Longitudinally opposite ends of the blades 14, and of 19 the body 12, are chamfered to assist in movement of the 20 centraliser 10 up/down a well bore. 21 22 Although the blades 14 are shown separately from the 23 body 12 in Figs 4 and 5 (and while the blades 4 could 24 be separately formed and subsequently attached to the 25 body 12 by any suitable means) it is preferred that the 26 entire centraliser 10 is fabricated as a one-piece 27 article. 28 29 The centraliser 10 may be manufactured entirely from a 30 plastics, elastomeric and/or rubber material. 31 Alternatively, the centraliser may comprise a metal 32 body coated, or partially coated, with a plastic, 33 elastomeric and/or rubber material. 34

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Examples of possible plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber 1 materials are polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), 2 3 polyetheretherketone, carbon reinforced polyetheretherketone, polyphthalamide, polyvinylidene 4 fluoride, polyphenylylene sulphide, polyetherimide, 5 polyethylene, polysulphone, polyethersulphone, б 7 polybutyleneterephthalate, polyetherketoneketone, polyamides, rubber & rubber compounds, phenolic resins or compounds, thermosetting plastics, thermoplastic 9 elastomers, thermoplastic compounds or thermoplastic 10 polyester resins. 11 12 The plastics, elastomeric and/or rubber material may 13 contain a filler. Examples of possible fillers are 14 glass, carbon, PTFE, silicon, molybdenum disulphide, 15 graphite, oil or wax, or any combination of these 16 materials. 17 18 19 Use of a plastic, elastomeric and/or rubber material gives a number of advantages, including: - chemical 20 resistance, such as resistance to acid; non-sparking 21 (ie sparks are not generated if the centraliser 10 22 collides with steel); and, materials such as PTFE give 23 superior bearing properties. 24 25 Since the bore 16 is a clearance fit around the casing 26 and since the bore 16 lacks any means of tightly 27 gripping a normally dimensioned casing, the centraliser 28 10 can not only rotate freely around the casing but 29 also move freely along the casing (unless and until the 30 centraliser collides with an obstruction, for example a 31 protruding casing joint). Thus to provide longitudinal 32

restraint for the centraliser 10 to retain the

centraliser substantially at its preferred location

along the casing but without impairing the relative

rotatability of centraliser and casing, use is made of a stop collar 50, as illustrated in Fig. 6. Fig. 6 shows a modified form of casing centraliser 100, fitted around hollow tubular casing 102 which is

located within a well bore 104. The modified centraliser 100 is essentially the same as the

8 centraliser 10 described above, and differs principally

9 in the dimensions and proportions of its blades 106.

10 In particular, the blades 106 are circumferentially

wider at the lower end of the centraliser 100 than they

12 are at the upper end. Fig. 6 also illustrates the

13 manner in which the centraliser will hold casing out of

14 direct contact with the well bore and centrally within

the well bore, in preparation for subsequent cementing.

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Fig 7 shows a modified plastic centraliser 110 located around a length of casing 112. The centraliser 110 has blades R1, R2, R3 and R4 spaced around its outer surface to contact the inner surface of the wellbore and to centralise the casing 112 therein. The blades R extend axially along the centraliser but can alternatively extend around the outer circumference of the centraliser like the blades 106.

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The centraliser 110 is axially divided along the midline of opposing blades R2 and R4 to form two half shells 110a and 110b, so that the blades R2 and R4 are formed only when the opposing faces F of the half shells 110a and 110b are joined together. Half shell 110a has two threaded sockets S in each of the faces F of R2 and R4 to receive bolts B protruding through the faces F of the other half shell 110b. The bolts B engage in the sockets S and pull the faces F together when the centraliser 110 is made up around the casing

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112 and the bolts tightened. 1 2 The centraliser 110 can be formed from 3 polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone, 4 carbon reinforced polyetheretherketone, 5 polyphthalamide, polyvinylidene fluoride, 6 polyphenylylene sulphide, polyetherimide, polyethylene, 7 polysulphone, polyethersulphone, 8 polybutyleneterephthalate, polyetherketoneketone, 9 polyamides, rubber & rubber compounds, phenolic resins 10 or compounds, thermosetting plastics, thermoplastic 11 elastomers, thermoplastic compounds or thermoplastic 12 polyester resins. 13 14 The centraliser 110 is useful with coil tubing 15 applications, but may also be used for casing and 16 screens to afford protection from acids and other 17 harmful chemicals downhole. 18 19 In the case of casing located within larger diameter 20 casing, centralisers can be employed on the inner 21 casing to hold it out of direct contact with the outer 22 casing. 23 24 Advantages of the invention are that the use of a 25

Advantages of the invention are that the use of a plastics, elastomeric and/or rubber material for the centraliser helps to provide chemical resistance, such as resistance to corrosion from acid. Other advantages are that the materials are generally non sparking and that certain materials, for example PTFE, have superior bearing properties.

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- 2 1 A casing centraliser comprising an annular body,
- 3 the annular body having a substantially cylindrical
- 4 bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the annular
- 5 body being formed from at least one material selected
- from the group consisting of plastic material,
- 7 elastomeric material and rubber material, the
- 8 substantially cylindrical bore being a clearance fit
- 9 around the tubular casing to be centralised by the
- 10 centraliser.

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- 12 2 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1 wherein
- 13 the material is selected from the group consisting of
- 14 polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone,
- 15 carbon reinforced polyetheretherketone,
- 16 polyphthalamide, polyvinylidene fluoride,
- 17 polyphenylylene sulphide, polyetherimide, polyethylene,
- 18 polysulphone, polyethersulphone,
- 19 polybutyleneterephthalate, polyetherketoneketone,
- 20 polyamides, rubber & rubber compounds, phenolic resins
- 21 or compounds, thermosetting plastics, thermoplastic
- 22 elastomers, thermoplastic compounds and thermoplastic
- 23 polyester resins.

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- 25 3 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1,
- 26 wherein the material contains a filler material.

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- 28 4 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 3 wherein
- 29 the filler material is selected from the group
- 30 consisting of glass, carbon, PTFE, silicon, molybdenum
- 31 disulphide, graphite, oil and wax.

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- 33 5 A casing centraliser assembly as claimed in claim
- 34 1, wherein the annular body is of unitary construction.

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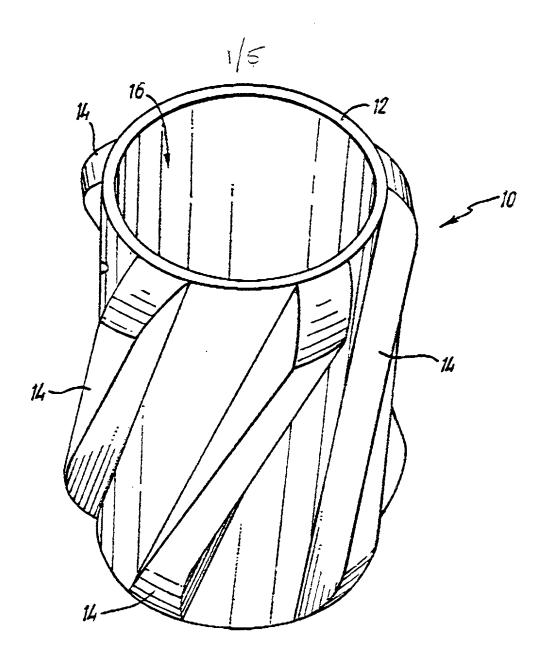
A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1, 1 wherein the annular body comprises a combination of at 2 least two different materials. 3 4 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1, 5 wherein the annular body comprises a metal skeleton at 6 least partially coated with said material. 7 8 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1, having 9 a peripheral array of a plurality of longitudinally 10 extending blades circumferentially distributed around 11 the body of the centraliser to define a flow path 12 between each circumferentially adjacent pair of said 13 blades, each said flow path providing a fluid flow path 14 between longitudinally opposite ends of said 15 centraliser, each said blade having a radially outer 16 edge providing a well bore-contacting surface. 17 18 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 8, 19 wherein the blades are mutually substantially 20 equidistantly distributed around the body. 21 22 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 8, 10 23 wherein the blades each extend circumferentially at 24 least part-way around said body between longitudinally 25 opposite ends thereof to provide a circumferential 26 distribution of each said well bore-contacting surface. 27 28 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 8, 29 11 wherein each blade has a radially inner root integral 30 with said body, each said radially inner root 31 preferably being circumferentially wider than the 32 respective radially outer edge. 33 34

A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 8,

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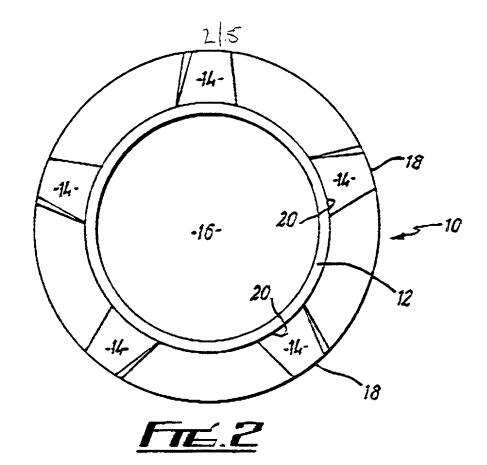
wherein the blades are circumferentially wider at a 1 lower end of the centraliser than at the upper end. 2 3 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 8, 4 wherein said centraliser has five of said blades. 5 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1, 7 14 substantially free of any means tightly gripping a 8 casing when said centraliser is installed thereon, 9 whereby said centraliser and said casing are mutually 10 11 rotatable. 12 A casing centraliser assembly comprising tubular 13 casing and a centraliser as claimed in claim 1. 14 15 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 1, 16 16 wherein the annular body is divided along its axis into 17 at least two inter-connectable sections. 18 19 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 16, 20 17 wherein each of said at least two inter-connectable 21 sections is adapted to allow the centraliser to be 22 placed around the tubular without needing to be 23 threaded over an end of the tubular. 24 25 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 16, 26 wherein the division between the sections is not axial. 27 28 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 16, 29 19 wherein the sections are hingedly attached to one 30 31 another. 32 A casing centraliser as claimed in claim 16, 33

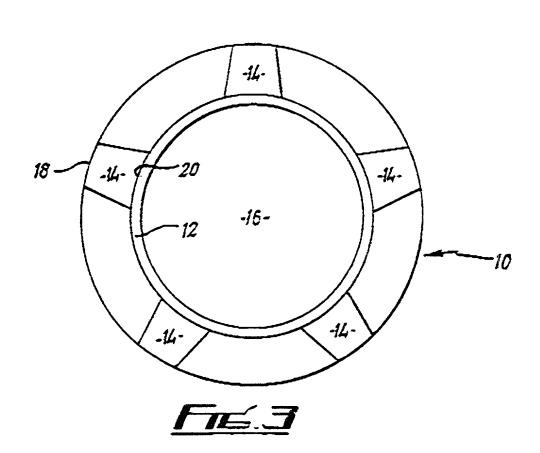
wherein the sections are held together by fixings.

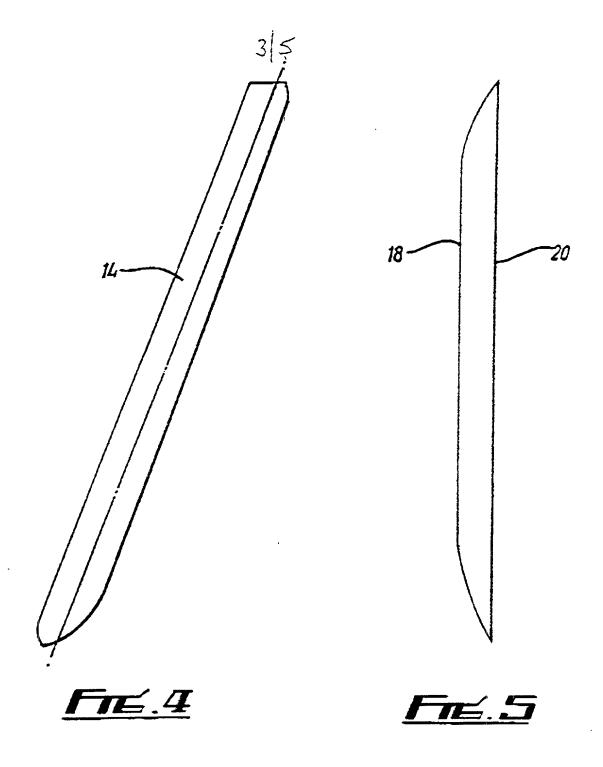


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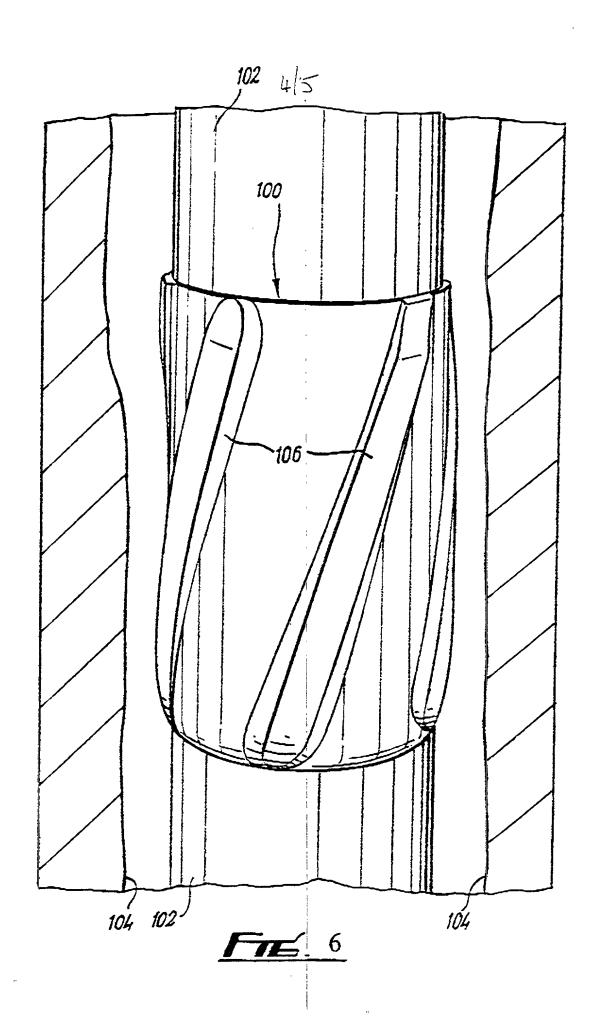
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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:							
My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,							
	if plural names are lis is sought on the inver	ntor (if only one name is listed below) of sted below) of the subject matter which ntion entitled					
he specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:							
was filed on 23 Fe	was filed on 23 February 1998 as						
		CT International Application Number PC	CT/GB98/00554				
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I hereby state that I have	ve reviewed and unde	erstand the contents of the above identinendment referred to above.	fied specification,				
Eacknowledge the duty 156.	to disclose information	on which is material to patentability as o	defined in 37 CFR §				
application(s) for pater designated at least or below by checking the	nt or inventor's certific ne country other than ne box, any foreign n having a filing date	nder 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or § 36- cate, or § 365(a) of any PCT Internation in the United States, listed below and application for patent or inventor's before that of the application on which per 21 February 1997	nal application which have also identified certificate, or PCT				
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[Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)					
I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.							
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)						
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)						
PCT International app matter of each of the International application acknowledge the duty	lication designating the claims of this application in the manner per to disclose information the termination of the second call able between the second call able to the seco	§ 120 of any United States applications he United States, listed below and, instation is not disclosed in the prior Unprovided by the first paragraph of 3 on which is material to patentability as of filing date of the prior application and	sofar as the subject lited States or PCT 5 U.S.C. § 112, I defined in 37 CFR §				

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Paul F. Prestia Allan Ratner Andrew L. Ney Kenneth N. Nigon Kevin R. Casey Benjamin E. Leace James C. Simmons	Reg. No. 23,031 Reg. No. 19,717 Reg. No. 20,300 Reg. No. 31,549 Reg. No. 32,117 Reg. No. 33,412 Reg. No. 24,842	Lawrence E. Ashery Christopher R. Lewis Robert L. Andersen Daniel N. Calder Louis W. Beardell, Jr. Jacques L. Etkowicz, Eric A Dichter	Reg. No. 34,515 Reg. No. 36,201 Reg. No. 25,771 Reg. No. 27,424 Reg. No. 40,506 Reg. No. 41,738 Reg. No. 41,708	Mark J. Marcelli Joshua L. Cohen Christopher J. Dervishi Jack J. Jankovitz	Reg. No. 36,593 Reg. No. 38,040 Ian Reg. No. 42,480 Reg. No. 42,690
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statements made were made with by fine or imprisuch willful false	e on informatio the knowledge onment, or bot statements ma	tatements made he n and belief are belie that willful false s th, under Section 10 by jeopardize the valid name, family name) lan Al	eved to be true statements and 01 of Title 18 o dity of the applic	e; and further that the second of the United State	these statements le are punishable es Code and that
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Residence Aberdeer				Date	
Citizenship <u>GB</u> Post Office Address	Lindons, 131 North	Deeside Road, Milltimber,	, Aberdeen AB13 0J	F, UNITED KINGDOM	
Full name of second j	oint inventor, if any	(given name, family name	e) <u>William Barron</u>		
Second Inventor's sig	nature			Date	
Residence Aberdeer	ı, Scotland				
Citizenship <u>GB</u>					
Post Office Address	31 Seafield Road, A	Aberdeen AB15 7YU, UNIT	ED KINGDOM		
Additional inve	entors are being nar	med on separately number	ed sheets attached	hereto.	

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Full name of third joint inventor, if any (given name, family name) Alistair Bertram Clark	
Third inventor's signature	Date
Residence Aberdeen, Scotland	
Citizenship <u>GB</u>	
Post Office Address 7 Westwood Grove, Westhill, Aberdeen AB32 6XF, UNITED KINGDOM	<u> 1</u>
Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any (given name, family name)	
Fourth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	
] Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any (given name, family name)	
Fifth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
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Fost Office Address	
HI CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO	
Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any (given name, family name)	
	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	
Full name of seventh joint inventor, if any (given name, family name)	
Seventh inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
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